



# Wetland and Coastal Habitat Conservation and Restoration Priority Issue Team...

*aka:*

*Regional Restoration  
Coordination Team (RRCT)*



# Long-term partnership goal

Increase coordination among the Gulf States and local, federal, business and non-profit partners to better conserve and restore coastal wetlands and other vital habitats throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

# Working Group Structure

- State Co-Chairs:

- Len Bahr, LA Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
- Greg DuCote, LA Department of Natural Resources

- Federal Co-Facilitators:

- Kristopher Benson, NOAA Restoration Center
- Drew Puffer, EPA Gulf of Mexico Program

- NGO Facilitator:

- Quenton Dokken, Gulf of Mexico Foundation

- Membership:

- 25-30, representing state and federal agencies and NGOs; ~50 additional participants in state-specific workshops





# Requests of the AMT

- Verification of LA representation & team leadership, given changes in AMT representation.
- Endorsement of existing functional team structure, given GMF facilitation, funding awards, and accountability.
- Clarification of DOI participation (USFWS, USGS, NPS, across agency regional boundaries for entire Gulf).
- Both federal and state participants need support of their agencies;
- Funding to coordinate should be continued at least at current levels and better coordinated between funding agencies



# Communication Enhancement

- More cohesive intra-state team communications are needed to clarify state positions/priorities across all teams.
- The new ACT structure will provide a needed forum for inter-team coordination; clarification of ACT membership is important, particularly where state representation is unclear and/or NGO participation is significant.
- When they are completed, the team will look to the AMT for approval and circulation of "recommendations synthesis documents" (conservation & restoration recommendations, RSMMP) through Alliance websites, EEN team, other venues.



# RRCT vs HCRT

- Regional Restoration Coordination Team, established in the first Governor's Action Plan, recommends changing the priority issue title to "Habitat Conservation and Restoration" and the team name to the "Habitat Conservation and Restoration Team"
- These changes are important to emphasize the conservation components of the team's activities. This focus has consistently been lost in favor of a restoration focus, which is limiting.
- These changes are also important to shift the focus from wetlands to habitats more generally.





# Scope of work for the Priority Issue Team under the next action plan

- R1-1 (establishment of the team) &
- R1-2 (round-robin inventory workshops)...
- are completed and will not carry forward into the next action plan. The information gained in undertaking these actions will form the basis for form the basis for the actions in the next action plan. Products resulting from the workshops (project prioritization toolkit, etc.) will continue to evolve with input from other teams.



# Scope of work for the Priority Issue Team under the next action plan

- R1-3 (freshwater inflows workshop) will be carried into the next action plan and will include language associated with development of policy recommendations or best management practices to derive from the workshop.





# Scope of work for the Priority Issue Team under the next action plan

- R1-4 (environmental compliance issues),
- R1-5 (streamlined project permitting),
- R1-6 (granting processes facilitating or impeding projects), &
- R1-8 (development of the GRSMMP)...

will result in recommendations synthesis documents  
(anticipated in draft form by Aug. 2008)

# Scope of work for the Priority Issue Team under the next action plan

- Action R1-7 (public-private partnership development and development of conservation incentive programs for landowners) will be carried into the next action plan and will focus on corporate support for project implementation, on existing landowner conservation programs that can be strengthened, and on coordination of incentives research with the resilience team.

# Scope of work for the Priority Issue Team under the next action plan

- R1-9 (documentation of population growth statistics) is completed and will be incorporated into the project prioritization toolkit resulting from Action R1-2.





Thank you...Questions?